

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Zhu (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,079); and claims 7 and 8 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu as applied to claims 1-6 and further in view of Jones (U.S. Patent 4,713,711). In addition, the Examiner objected to claim 4 for an informality. The rejections and objection have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 1-8.

2. The applicant has amended claim 4 to correct the informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

3. Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Zhu (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,079). In particular, the Examiner stated, with respect to claim 1:

Zhu anticipates a method for manufacturing an on-chip inductor consisting of: in fig. 4, creating at least one conductive winding 59 on the at least one dielectric layer; and least one dielectric layer 52; creating a P-well 28 having a major surface parallel to a major surface of the dielectric layer, col. 4, lines 32-62;

The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 is a method consisting of the steps of creating at least one dielectric layer; creating at least one conductive winding on the at least one dielectric layer; and creating a P-well having a major surface parallel to a major surface of the dielectric layer.

As stated in MPEP 2111.03, the transitional phrase "consisting of" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. Zhu's method for reducing substrate capacitive coupling of a thin film inductor by reverse P/N junctions includes steps beyond those of claim 1 and its dependent claims. As such, Zhu does not anticipate or render claims 1-8 obvious.

In particular, Zhu teaches, with reference to Figures 3B and 4 and the corresponding text of columns 3 and 4, a method for reducing substrate capacitive coupling of a thin film inductor by reverse P/N junctions. Figure 3B illustrates a region of a silicon wafer in which an inductor is formed. The wafer 20 is a p-type silicon wafer (Column 3, lines 42 - 43). Figure 3B further illustrates a deep n-implant 24, a p-well 28, a screen oxide 26, and photoresist layer 26. Accordingly, the inductor of Figure 3B includes more steps than the three steps of claim 1 of the present patent application or of the further limitations of claims 2-8. The inductor of Figure 4 includes many more elements than the inductor of Figure 3B and steps of forming such elements. As such, the inductor of Figure 4 does not anticipate or render the present claims 1-8 obvious.

4. Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu as applied to claims 1-6 and further in view of Jones (U.S. Patent 4,713,711). In particular, the Examiner stated:

Zhu does not teach forming a differential inductor, but Jones does. Jones teaches in fig. 2A, limitations from claim 7, the method of claim 1 further consists of: creating a secondary winding 20' magnetically coupled to the conductive winding 17, col. 4, lines 45-68; limitations from claim 8, the method of claim 1, in fig. 2B, wherein the at least one conductive winding further consists of: creating a center tap potential to produce operably coupled to a reference a differential inductor, col. 4, lines 21-68. Jones gives motivation in col. 5, lines 32-46. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to recognize that combining Jones's process with Zhu's invention would have been beneficial because the invention has improved noise rejection when making differential measurements with respect to a common connection.

The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 7 consists of the three steps of claim 1 plus the step of creating a secondary winding magnetically coupled to the conductive winding. As stated above, Zhu does not anticipate claim 1. Thus, even if Jones teaches having a secondary winding, the combination of Zhu and Jones fails to teach or render the present claim obvious since Zhu does not teach or suggest the steps of claim 1.

Claim 8 consists of the three steps of claim 1 plus the step of creating a center tap to create a differential inductor. As stated above, Zhu does not anticipate claim 1. Thus, even if Jones teaches creating a center tap, the combination of Zhu and Jones fails to teach or render the present claim obvious since Zhu does not teach or suggest the steps of claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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